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May 12, 2025

The Honorable Mike Crapo, Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1205

Dear Chairman Crapo:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I am requesting that you call for votes in the Committee on Finance on the following three bills:

S.475, Alternatives to PAIN Act, would provide greater access to non-opioid treatments for pain management for seniors by:

- Limiting patient cost-sharing for patients receiving non-opioid based pain relief under Medicare Part D plans;
- Prohibiting the utilization of step therapy and prior authorization for these drugs; and
- Encouraging the continued dialogue between patients and their healthcare professionals about preferences in pain management choices.

The United States is facing a public health crisis caused by prescription drug addiction. Unfortunately, our country's seniors are not immune to the worsening opioid epidemic. In 2021, 1.1 million seniors were diagnosed with an opioid use disorder, and 50,400 seniors experienced an opioid overdose from prescription opioids, illicit opioids, or both.

S.1058, Preserving Patient Access to Home Infusion Act, would ensure patients with serious infections, heart failure, immune diseases, cancer and other conditions receive the intravenous (IV) medications they need while at home. Expanding at-home infusion services for Medicare beneficiaries will save Medicare millions of dollars, cut patient costs, and ensure people receive safe and adequate care at home.

Despite congressional intent, CMS improperly implemented the benefit for Medicare Part B home infusion drugs by requiring a nurse to be physically present in the patient's home in order for providers to be reimbursed. The current home infusion therapy benefit fails to account for the extensive clinical and administrative services that are provided remotely by home infusion clinicians. As a result, provider participation in Medicare's home infusion benefit has dropped sharply and beneficiaries have experienced reduced access to home infusion over several years

H.R.1217, Alleviating Barriers for Caregivers (ABC) Act, would require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Social Security Administration (SSA), and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to review their eligibility, processes, procedures, forms, and communications to reduce the administrative burden on family caregivers. The legislation would then require CMS, SSA, and CHIP to report to Congress after two years about any issues they are facing and any next steps they are taking to support family caregivers.

Family caregivers serve as a primary source of support for seniors and people with disabilities of all ages. In the United States alone, there are more than 48 million family caregivers. More than half of family caregivers act as an advocate for their loved one with care providers, community services, or government agencies. However, one in four family caregivers say they want help with forms, paperwork, and eligibility for services.

If you would like to learn more about why NRLN supports these bills, please contact me or Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director in Washington, DC, at parkerstrategies@gmail.com or call 813-545-6792.

Sincerely,



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National Retiree Legislative Network
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Phone: 972-722-5928

Copy to Sponsors of the Bills:
Senator Thomas Tillis
Senator Mark Warner
Senator Edward Markey